

Waste Reduction and Recycling Pathway

Baseline Assessment

Use the assessment sheet below to evaluate the current status of the classroom's waste reduction and recycling practices.

(Please note – If your students decided to assess more than one classroom and/or library please complete one of these forms for each room.)

After the classroom has completed this baseline assessment, proceed to Step 2 to develop an **Action Plan Report**.

1) Where is paper waste generated in the classroom?	<input type="checkbox"/> Print out materials <input type="checkbox"/> Classwork and homework	<input type="checkbox"/> In-class printer/copier <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
2) Do you have a classroom special events policy to reduce waste and increase recycling? (ex: holiday decorations, party supplies, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3) Is there a worm bin in the classroom for composting food scraps?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
4) Are students allowed to eat lunch in the classroom?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
5) Is there an organics collection bin in the classroom or for special classroom events and parties?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
6) If your school offers a commercial organic collection program, what type of organics are generated and collected in the classroom?	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Scraps <input type="checkbox"/> Soiled Paper	
7) Are the recycling bins placed next to the garbage bins to prevent contamination?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
8) Are recycling and trash bins clearly labeled?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
9) What types of recyclables are in the trash bin? (Cardboard, paper, bottles, cans, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
10) Are there bins for reusing paper and other materials?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
11) Who is responsible for emptying the garbage and recycling classroom bin(s)?	_____	
12) Is there signage showing which items to trash (landfill) and which to recycle placed above each bin? Are their clear labels on the bin(s)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
13) Are there other collection bins for recycling items such as ink cartridges, cell phones, plastic bags?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Please do the following baseline assessment calculations, questions 15-19. Please note, the data collected from the bins should be made on the day or the day before classroom recycling bins are emptied / serviced.		
14) Baseline Assessment Calculation Total Volume of Trash Bins and Recycling Bins Found in the Classroom: How many trash bins and recycling bins are in the classroom? What is the total volume that all the trash bins and recycling bins can hold? For example, in the classroom there are two trash bins. One trash bin has a volume of 10 gallons and the other trash bin has a volume of 7 gallons. Therefore, the total volume that the trash bins can hold would be 17 gallons (10 gallons + 7 gallons = 17 gallons).	____ (#) of trash bins found with a total volume of ____ g ____ (#) of recycle bins found with a total volume of ____ g	

<p>15) Baseline Assessment Calculation Garbage Currently Found in Classroom Trash Bin(s): Visually estimate the percentage of garbage found in each trash bin and then find the total volume of garbage collected in each bin. For example, if one 10 gallon garbage bin is 75% full, it would have 7.5 gallons of garbage (10 gallons multiplied by 75% = 7.5 gallons.) Once you have the gallons of garbage in each bin please add the volumes together to find the total volume – gallons.</p>	_____ gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 1 _____ gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 2 _____ gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 3 _____ gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 4 _____ gallons of garbage in Trash Bin 5 <i>(Note- please put in N/A if the class does not have Trash Bin 2, 3, 4, or 5)</i> _____ =Total gallons from this category adding list above
<p>16) Baseline Assessment Calculation Recyclables Currently Found in Classroom Recycling Bin(s): Visually estimate the percentage of recyclables found in each recycling bin and then find the total volume of recyclables collected in each bin. For example, if one 10 gallon recycling bin is 50% full it would have 5 gallons of recyclables (10 gallons multiplied by 50% = 5 gallons). Once you have the gallons of recyclables in each bin please add the volumes together to find the total volume – gallons.</p>	_____ gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 1 _____ gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 2 _____ gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 3 _____ gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 4 _____ gallons of recyclables in Recycle Bin 5 <i>(Note- please put in N/A if the class does not have Recycle Bin 2, 3, 4, or 5)</i> _____ Total gallons from this category adding list above
<p>17) What is the percentage of recyclable bottles and cans in the trash bin(s)?</p>	(Visual Estimate) _____ %
<p>18) What is the percentage of recyclable paper in the trash bin(s)?</p>	(Visual Estimate) _____ %
<p>19) What is the percentage of organics in the trash bin(s)?</p>	(Visual Estimate) _____ %

Write down any additional notes or comments below:
